

Project Update

It is amazing how quickly a full year passes by when you are busy developing new curriculum resources. After 12 months of concerted and diligent effort the Under My Wing consortium are delighted to be almost finished their curriculum development actions. Partners are confident that the new curriculum, which should be available early in 2014, will constitute a major step forward in terms of curriculum content, design and delivery.



The technical team meets in Helsinki

There are seven core modules being developed that address the following areas:

1. Becoming An Entrepreneur
2. Starting Your Business
3. Access to Finance and Financial Management
4. Customer Care
5. Business Management
6. Communication
7. Business Immersion



UNDER MY WING

SUPPORTING GRADUATE ENTREPRENEURS

NEWSLETTER 2

The development of this new curriculum is based on research conducted to identify key technical, behavioural and management competences and the required learning outcomes that the successful implementation of the curriculum should achieve.

For example in Module 1: Becoming an Entrepreneur, the following competences have been identified for each of the different categories:

TECHNICAL COMPETENCES

Financial planning
Risk & opportunity assessment
Strategic thinking
Critical thinking skills
Practical exploration of entrepreneurial opportunities

BEHAVIOURAL COMPETENCES

Motivation and determination
Initiative and proactivity
Leadership
Creative thinking
Living with uncertainty and complexity
Independence
Collaboration
Open mindedness
Self-awareness and confidence

MANAGEMENT COMPETENCES

Project management
Networking
Decision making
Visionary
Ability to delegate
Result orientation
Strategic focus
Practical exploration of entrepreneurial opportunities

The required learning outcomes will ensure that students who complete this module will be able to:

- Identify professional and personal skills needed to become a successful entrepreneur
- Assess the risks and opportunities in becoming an entrepreneur
- Understand how to generate a viable business idea from the opportunities available to them
- Identify the necessary steps to be taken in order to develop and start their own business

Technical, behavioural and management competences and appropriate learning outcomes for each of the seven modules have been identified.

In addition to the seven modules proposed an extra workshop module is being developed in each partner country where specific localised advice will be provided to address legal, taxation and insurance issues as well as outlining pertinent opportunities for networking.

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Accessing The New Curriculum Resources

Working closely with target groups through the Local Development Sub-groups in each partner country has proven to be of considerable benefit to the project consortium. It has become increasingly obvious that the accessibility of curriculum resources is one of the main barriers to the development of entrepreneurship in partner countries. Where training programmes are available they are either scheduled at inappropriate times or demand almost full-time study. In most cases nascent entrepreneurs suggested that a modular and flexible approach to learning would suit them best and that making educational content accessible on a variety of different technology platforms was essential if a high level of uptake was to be achieved.

As there is little point in asking target groups for their opinion unless you are committed to satisfying their needs the project technical team have looked carefully at the available and most popular technologies that could be harnessed to support flexible and accessible learning. In consultation with end users the consortium has agreed that each curriculum module will be available in a variety of formats for use on all types of technology platforms. Video, audio, text based and e-book versions of each module will be available for viewing or downloading through the dedicated e-learning portal being developed.

Whether the nascent graduate entrepreneurs that Under My Wing engage want to learn in a classroom, online, through their mobile phone or on

their iPod, the curriculum resources developed will be readily available and accessible demonstrating the consortiums commitment to universal access.

Content Accessibility Options			
RESOURCE	VIEW	DOWNLOAD	FILE TYPE
Video and slides	▶		
Video	▶	▼	MP4
Audio and slides	▶		
Audio	▶	▼	MP3
Flipbook	▶		
Slides with notes		▼	PDF
Slides		▼	PDF

Induction to Pedagogy

The consortium partners want to ensure that the teachers and tutors who comprise the frontline of education and training are supported to engage with the new curriculum resources and the proposed flexible learning pathways.

Throughout the development phase of the project the input of teachers and tutors has significantly influenced the design process and in response to their expressed needs induction training for the new pedagogic approach has been developed. This induction addresses the following issues:

1. A Short overview of project objectives and what it aims to achieve
2. Introduction to the UMW curriculum
3. The target group - Characteristics of the UMW target group, their needs and expectations

4. Introduction to the e-learning platform
5. The role of “facilitators” of learning
6. Effective team building and communication
7. UMW expectations of tutors / Adult Education Staff
8. Benefit for tutors / Adult Education Staff

As business owners will also play a key role in the project through the proposed Business Immersion Model an induction programme has also been developed to support their role in the project. This induction addresses the following issues:

1. A Short overview of project objectives and aims to achieve
2. Introduction to the UMW curriculum
3. The target group - Characteristics of the UMW target group, their needs and expectations
4. Introduction to the e-learning platform
5. The role of business owners in the immersion module
6. Effective team building and communication
7. Best practice on coaching and mentoring approaches and techniques (steps and advance)
8. UMW expectations of Micro-enterprise Owners
9. Benefit for Micro-enterprise Owners

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